



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE EMS GRANT PROGRAM OPENS GRANT CYCLE

More than \$9 Million Available To Communities

Tallahassee – The Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) grant program is now accepting applications from government, private, and non-profit organizations. Grants may be used to purchase equipment and supplies to enhance and improve Emergency Medical Services. More than \$9 million is available through three grant programs.

"These grants enhance EMS services in the community," said DOH Secretary, John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A. "They encourage cooperative efforts and support a service essential to the health and well-being of the community."

There are three grant programs, authorized by Chapter 401, Part II, Florida Statutes and funded by the Legislature annually. Funds for each program are generated from a surcharge on fines for major traffic violations. The programs are:

- ☐ **County grant program**, in which all 67 counties are eligible to participate. Last year, 62 counties requested and received a combined \$4.5 million to improve and expand emergency medical services. Applications for the current grant cycle will be accepted until January 16, 2004
- ☐ **Matching grant program**, in which public or private agencies may participate. Under this program, the grant pays 75 percent of approved project costs and the grantee pays the other 25 percent. Last year, 43 organizations received a combined \$2.3 million for medical equipment, vehicles, public and professional training, and other items to improve and expand emergency medical services. Applications for the current grant cycle will be accepted until December 12, 2003.
- ☐ **Rural grant program**, in which organizations in counties with less than 100,000 residents may apply. Under this program, the grant pays 90 percent or more of costs, and the grantee pays the balance. Last year, 11 agencies received a combined \$699,599 to improve and expand emergency medical services. Applications for the current grant cycle will be accepted until May 3, 2004.

For more information on these grants, visit DOH's website at: www.doh.state.fl.us and choose "emergency medical services" from the subject list. For details on how to apply for the grant, please call (850) 245-4440, extension 2737.

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